

# MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## PART 25: SPORTS HALLS

### Current sports halls provision in Malvern Hills District

25.1 There is a good spread of sports halls across the District and all residents are within the 15 minute drive time suggested by Sport England. All the four-court sports halls in Malvern Hills District are attached to an educational establishment. Facilitating continued community access to sports halls is therefore reliant the continued co-operation between MHDC and schools. Wychavon Leisure Community Association operates the indoor facility at the Chantry High School and Dyson Perrins High School and a formal dual-use agreement exists to guarantee community access beyond 6pm and at weekends.

Table 25.1: Sports hall (minimum four court) sites in Malvern Hills District (see next page)

ID	Site
1	Sport Dyson Perrins (Dyson Perrins High School)
2	Hanley Castle High School
3	Hill Community Centre
4	Malvern College
5	Sport Martley (The Chantry High School)
6	Tenbury High School
7	The Chase High School

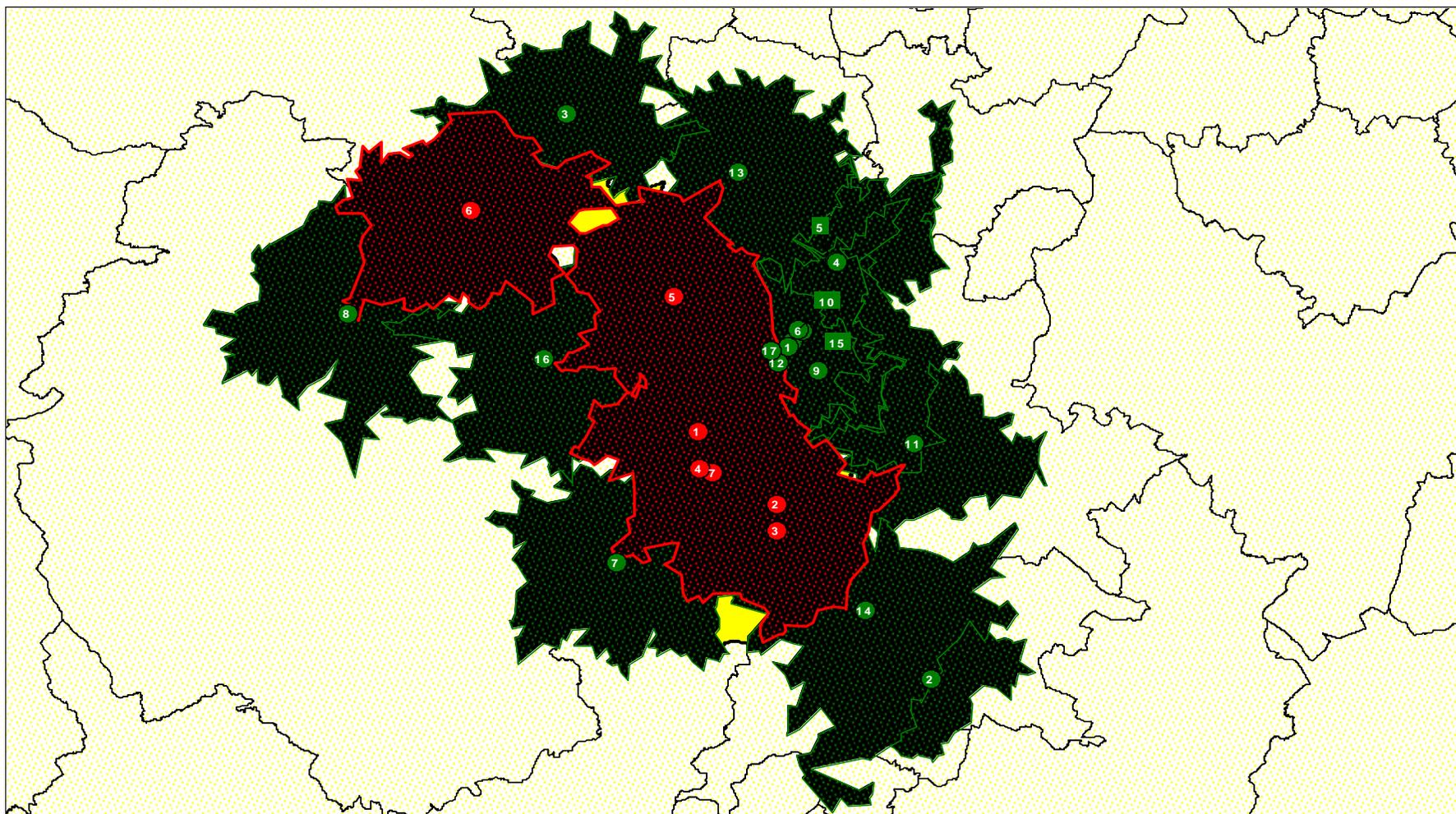
Table 25.2: Sports halls in surrounding local authorities (see next page)

ID	Site	Local authority
1	Bishops Perowne High School	Worcester City Council
2	Cleeve Sports & Arts Centre	Tewkesbury Borough Council
3	Cleobury Mortimer Sports Centre	South Shropshire District Council
4	Droitwich Spa High School	Wychavon District Council
5	Droitwich Sports & Leisure Centre	Wychavon District Council
6	Elgar Technology College	Worcester City Council
7	Ledbury Leisure Centre	Herefordshire Council
8	Leominster Leisure Centre	Herefordshire Council
9	Nunnery Wood Sports Complex	Worcester City Council
10	Perdiswell Leisure Centre	Worcester City Council
11	Pershore High School	Wychavon District Council
12	St John's Sports Centre	Worcester City Council
13	Stourport Sports Centre	Wyre Forest District Council
14	Tewkesbury Sports Centre	Tewkesbury Borough Council
15	The Alice Otley School	Worcester City Council
16	The Bromyard Centre	Herefordshire Council
17	University College Worcester Sports Centre	Worcester City Council



# MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 25.1: Location of sports hall (min 4 court) in Malvern Hills District (with 15-minute drive time catchment)



# MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

25.2 Community usage of sports halls varies. The table below highlights current levels of community usage.

*Table 25.3: Summary of current usage levels for sports halls in Malvern Hills District*

Site	Quality and usage
Dyson Perrins High School	The sports hall has been recently refurbished as part of a wider upgrade of the sports facilities, which will include a new fitness suite. Consultation shows that the sports hall is well-used by community clubs. A number of local football clubs, including Powick FC and Hanley Swan FC use the facility for training purposes. Malvern Frisbee Club also uses the facility for training sessions. The programme is very similar to that at Sports Martley.
The Chase High School	There is regular usage of the sports hall, although consultation suggests that this could be increased. This is mainly due to the poor quality of the sports hall and lack of associated changing facilities. There is no secure storage area to serve the hall, which makes storage and security of any equipment impossible.
Hanley Castle High School	The sports hall is used on an ad-hoc basis by several clubs. Hanley Castle Badminton Club uses the facility, and Hanley Castle Cricket Club uses the indoor nets during the winter. However, due to the relatively rural location of the facility, demand is not as high as the more centralised high schools at the Chase and Dyson Perrins, and consultation suggests that clubs do not choose to use the facility for this reason.
The Chantry High School	Sport Martley is operated by WLCA, which operates a varied sports programme throughout the week in the sports hall. Usage includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Badminton.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 5-a-side football (league).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Table tennis.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Circuit training.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Climbing.</li> </ul>
Tenbury High School	An Extended Hours Co-ordinator has been appointed at the School to drive and maintain levels of usage of the sports hall. It has developed a 'Policy and Procedures Information Pack', which sets out priority use of the facility. It is used for a variety of sports, including 5-a-side football, badminton, indoor cricket training, hockey as well as the youth service. Consultation suggests that there is demand to use the facility at weekends, when it is currently not accessible. The High School offers a junior club reduction, which equates to a cost reduction per hour to hire the sports hall. This reduction applies to junior clubs that have achieved, or are working towards, Clubmark.
Malvern St. James' College	Malvern St. James College has a one court, dome facility. It will not be used as part of the new development of a sports hall. Malvern Gymnastics Club currently uses the facility, but due to the new developments at the site (see key issues section), this usage agreement has ceased. Consultation with the College indicates that there are plans to accommodate the Gymnastics Club as a primary user of the new facility.
Malvern College	Malvern College has a four-court sports hall which is hired to a number of community groups.

# MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## Key issues for sports halls

### *Restricted usage of sports halls*

- 25.3 Tenbury High School sports hall is not available to the community at weekends. This is primarily a cost issue, in terms of staffing the facility. However, consultation suggests that there is demand for the facility to be accessible at weekends. In particular, Tenbury Basketball Club and Tenbury Badminton Club have expressed an interest in using the facility if it was made available.
- 25.4 The facility is only available until 9pm on weekdays, and consultation with users reveals that clubs would be prepared to hire the facility until 10pm.

### *The Chase High School*

- 25.5 The sports hall is in need of both remedial and upgrade work. The ceiling is leaking, which causes the floor to lift up. Consultation suggests that this is due to the poor lead flashing. The sports hall is not served by changing rooms, which limits its potential usage levels. It also restricts curriculum delivery, as pupils are forced to change in the original changing facility, located at the heart of the School. This can reduce lesson times by up to 10 minutes due to the distance to walk between the changing rooms and sports hall, and the cramped conditions which do not have sufficient capacity for a year group. The adjacent STP does not have any changing facility.

## Sport by sport summary of key issues

### *Badminton*

- 25.6 There are four badminton clubs in Malvern Hills District, using the sports halls:
- PH Badminton Club – Malvern College.
  - Hanley Castle Badminton Club - Hanley Castle High School.
  - Tenbury Badminton Club – Tenbury High School.
  - Barely Badminton – Dyson Perrins High School.
- 25.7 All four clubs hire the facilities for two hours per week and consider them to be good quality. There is no additional demand within these four clubs for extra court time.

<b>Badminton summary</b>
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No demand issues identified.
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# MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## **Basketball**

- 25.8 There is currently no basketball club located in the Malvern Town analysis area. This has stagnated development in schools, as there is no club environment for players to progress into. MHDC is working with Worcester Wolves Basketball Club, which is based at Worcester University and has academy status. It plans to establish a satellite academy in Malvern Hills District with a view to forming a Malvern Hills District team. The CSP will support this by allocating funding to MHDC to source adequate facilities. As referenced above, in the past, sessions have been held at Hanley Castle High School, but the CSP considers this facility as being too isolated to attract players from the Malvern Hills District urban area.
- 25.9 Malvern Magic Basketball Club folded in 2005 due to the withdrawal of key volunteers and coaches. Due to its proximity to South Shropshire and Herefordshire, Tenbury Basketball Club has a catchment area that does not impact upon Malvern urban area. It is located, and run from Tenbury High School and is predominantly a club for pupils of the School. It has sufficient access to the sports hall at Tenbury High School.

### **Basketball summary**

Ensure that the Worcester Wolves satellite academy sessions have sufficient access to a sports hall in central Malvern Town area (Dyson Perrins High School or The Chase High School) and provide opportunities for local players.

## **Gymnastics**

- 25.10 Malvern Gymnastics Club is the biggest club in Malvern Hills District and one of the biggest clubs in Worcestershire, with 398 members. It also has 48 volunteers. It currently runs sessions six days per week, and uses the dome sports hall at Malvern St. James College on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, and the indoor gymnasium at Grove Primary School on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. It splits these sessions according to the skill level of the members. Due to the refurbishment at Malvern St. James College, the Club cannot use the Dome in 2007. This will significantly limit the number of split sessions that it can deliver, which will have a negative impact on the coach to pupil ratio, and therefore the quality of tuition. Due to the specialist nature of equipment required, it is also not desirable to be spread across two sites.
- 25.11 The Club has plans to purchase and develop the old bowling facility located on Spring Lane, Malvern. It is currently in the initial stages of assessing the feasibility of any potential development and, in partnership with MHDC, conducted an initial scoping study of local clubs to assess the potential demand for an additional indoor facility, and to ascertain, albeit on a 'what if' basis, the potential usage of such a facility. The results indicate that some clubs would use the facility, but not

# MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

---

necessarily because they cannot gain access to other sports halls in the District, rather to access a facility at a more convenient day or time of the week. More efficient timetabling from a central venue, could ensure that spare capacity at existing facilities is utilised.

- 25.12 As referenced previously, consultation with Malvern St. James College indicates the potential for the Club to be the main user of the new sports hall facility, and it will have access to its own storage area. This appears to contradict with the proposed Gymnastic Club development, which is pursuing its own plans for a purpose built facility. It should be recognised, however, that the significant use by the Gymnastics Club (six days per week) would severely restrict the facility's availability for other community clubs.

### **Gymnastics summary**

Malvern Gymnastics Club cannot operate efficient and good quality sessions across two or more facilities. Generally, there is no new demand for a sports hall in Malvern Hills, rather clubs requesting a better time slot than their existing facility can provide.

Despite the principal user of the Dome facility now using the new sports hall at Malvern St James College, this does not necessarily make the Dome surplus to requirements as an indoor sports hall facility serving the Malvern Town area.

### **Netball**

- 25.13 Malvern Netball Club plays competitive matches at Victoria Park, but trains at Dyson Perrins High School during the winter months. It hires the facility once per week, from 7-9pm on Tuesday evenings. The whole squad trains together at this time and, ideally, it wants more sessions to split the teams. However, it cannot gain access to additional times.
- 25.14 A community coach has recently been employed through MHDC funding until January 2008. The coach will go into schools to deliver netball coaching with a view to taking talented players into a club environment.

### **Netball summary**

Malvern Netball Club would like an additional two-hour session at Dyson Perrins High School to split its squad sessions.

# MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## **Table tennis**

25.15 KKP was unable to conduct consultation with Malvern Table Tennis Club due to a lack of response from the Club. However, the Club currently uses the sports hall at Dyson Perrins High School. It has not worked towards achieving the Clubmark accreditation.

### **Table tennis summary**

No demand issues identified.

Nominal funding has been allocated to identify talented players in secondary schools and feed them into a club environment.

## **Analysis of demand for sports halls**

*Table 25.4: Active Places Power analysis of demand for sports halls*

	<b>Current</b>	<b>Future (2016)</b>
Capacity	6510	6510
Demand	3096	3420
Balance	3414	3090
<b>% demand met</b>	<b>210.27%</b>	<b>190.35%</b>

25.16 Analysis, using Active Places Power, shows that there is very significant over-provision of sports halls in Malvern Hills District. Even allowing for increases in participation, analysis suggests that this would not alter significantly in the future.

## **Demand for an additional sports hall**

25.17 Throughout the consultation process, various clubs and organisations have expressed a perceived demand for an additional sports hall in Malvern Hills District:

- ❑ Manor Park Sports Club indicates that it receives a number of requests for indoor football from the community.
- ❑ Malvern Splash (SLM) suggests, from a leisure provider's point of view, that a sports hall would complete the leisure provision in Malvern Hills District.
- ❑ Malvern Gymnastics Club is investigating the potential to develop a purpose built sports hall as a permanent gymnastics facility.

# MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

25.18 However, there are issues which must be taken into account when assessing the demand for a new sports hall facility:

- ❑ Active Places Power shows that there is a very significant over-provision of sports halls in Malvern Hills District.
- ❑ Some of the sports halls (such as Tenbury High School – weekends, and Hanley Castle High School) are not being used to capacity.
- ❑ Consultation with some clubs shows that clubs cannot gain access to the sports halls at their preferred time. However, this does not necessarily constitute additional demand for a sports hall. The key issue, therefore, appears to be making best use of the available space.

## Sports hall summary and recommended actions

<p><b>Sports hall summary</b></p> <p><b>Current provision</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ There are seven indoor sports halls in Malvern Hills District.</li> </ul> <p><b>Future provision</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ There is no need for additional provision of sports halls in the District. Better use of the available space is required.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other issues</b></p> <p>See below.</p>
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*Table 25.5: Summary of sports halls key issues and recommended actions*

Key issue	Proposed outcome objective	Recommended action
Weekend usage of sports halls	Access to sports hall at all times with a wide range of sports opportunity.	Investigate the potential to make the sports halls at secondary schools available at weekends. This could involve facilitating supervisory staff and associated terms of employment.
The Chase High School	Provision of new changing serving both the indoor sports hall and adjacent STP facility.	Support the provision of a new changing facility adjacent to the sports hall, which serves both indoor and outdoor facilities.
Development at Malvern St. James College	Malvern Gymnastics Club has suitable access to the sports hall facility (both in terms of number and length of sessions) and suitable storage.	Conduct negotiations with Malvern St James College to ensure that the needs of Malvern Gymnastics Club are taken into account during the planning/construction stage.  Ensure that a formal community-use agreement is agreed as part of the planning process.  Ensure that the Gymnastics Club is kept fully informed of developments.

**MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY:  
ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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<b>Key issue</b>	<b>Proposed outcome objective</b>	<b>Recommended action</b>
Demand for an additional sports hall	Sufficient access to sports halls for clubs and other groups.	Ensure that a strategic overview of current sports hall usage is maintained by MHDC and any additional demand is directed to halls with capacity. Provide a central resource, overseeing the programmes of dual use sites Prioritise, and/or offer reductions to, clubs pursuing Clubmark accreditation, as an extension to the policy at Tenbury High School. This will support those clubs with good levels of sports development.